

Draft Minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 11th JULY 2023 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Sarah Goff (Chair), Jan Crewe, Simon Baker and John Shepherd; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk)

2307/1 - Apologies for absence. None.

2307/2 – Co-option of councillor onto the Parish Council following the uncontested election.

2307/3 - Co-option of councillor onto the Parish Council to fill a casual vacancy.

No candidates had come forward for either vacancy.

2307/4 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2307/5 - Public Forum:

The Chairman will adjourn the meeting and allow a maximum of 15 minutes for public participation on matters included on the agenda only. Three members of the public were present.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning applications.
Concern was expressed about large scale tree planting at Manor Farm, Prestleigh apparently for carbon off-setting. Clerk to contact planners about the matter.
New legislation about the safety of village halls was mentioned. Cllr Goff responded that such matters were in the hands of the school.
Concern was expressed about a number of areas in the Glebeland and beyond where ragwort was growing. Cllr Baker to recruit volunteers to remove the plants and ensure proper disposal.
- ii) Somerset Councillors report. Various written reports had been circulated.

2307/6 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 13th June 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.
- ii) Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held on 27th June 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

2307/7 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2023/0976/VRC | Application to vary condition 2 (drawings), 3 (materials) of planning approval 2020/1606/HSE (Make changes to the roof design to form rooms in the roof. Form dormer windows as drawings. Form extension to front elevation) to drawings AK_127_03 AND AK_127_04. | Beacon House Old Frome Road Doultling Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4LB.
The clerk advised that the council had not considered or responded to the original application. Noting that the property was not in Doultling Parish, councillors agreed not to make a response to this application.

2307/8 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic –
 - a) Padfield Green wall – the wall had been repaired.
 - b) Road Signs – some signs were still misplaced.
 - c) Doultling Hill drainage – some drains had been cleared but Cllr Crewe noted that the grips and ditches at the bottom of the hill still needed attention.
 - d) Cllr Crewe noted that some potholes had been infilled.
- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report including Edge Tool footpath situation.
 - a) Cllr Crewe advised that a number of paths had been strimmed and that she had reported a number of damaged stiles.
 - b) Edge Tool Works – it was noted that a number of revisions had been made to the original planning application. It was understood that Rights of Way had objected to the proposals as no footpaths were marked on the plans and in October 2022 advised planners of their objections and the requirement for additional applications to be made in respect of the footpath.
- iii) Speedwatch and SID's. Cllr Crewe advised that there had been two watches recently. The clerk had circulated information about community funded 20mph speed limits. Councillors noted that a 20mph limit already applied to Chelynch Road.
- iv) Hearing loop for community room. There was still a delay in the replacement of the damaged ceiling in the community room which was preventing completion of the hearing loop. Village Hall to write to the contractor to pressurise for completion.
- v) Village Hall matters. Cllr Goff advised that the school had identified a problem with radon and that works would be done during the holidays to mitigate the problem. The hall would be required to make a contribution of around £650.
- vi) Bus Partnership and Public Transport. Bus companies to increase advertising for the cheaper fares now on offer. There was a campaign to retain the Wells to Weston S Mare bus.
- vii) Somerset Council matters
 - a) Appointment of Parish Council LCN representative. Cllrs Goff and Baker to attend the meeting representing Doultling.
 - b) Comments on LCN Launch documents – none were made.

2307/9 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Tibbs Trees had completed the tree works. Another dead willow had been identified on site and councillors agreed to instruct Tibbs Trees to remove this at an approximate cost of £400.
- ii) Cllr Baker and others had sanded the benches in readiness for the application of preservative.
- iii) Cllr Baker advised that the hedge laying planned for November could be put back; he was seeking advice as to the best date for the works to be done.

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2307/10 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Tree planting. Scheduled for October.
- ii) Sun shading structure and green wall proposals. There was some discussion about the proposed shelter. The clerk had researched prices for timber, etc. Cllr Shepherd was concerned about any possible fire risk with the use of timber or willow fence panels. He advised that an approximate cost of £1000 would cover the proposed steel structure and the overall cost should be no more than £5000. Final details of the size and location of the structure were required. It was hoped to be able to confirm details before the next meeting in September.
- iii) Funding and grants for proposed works. Cllr Baker to research grants working on a proposed cost of £5000.

2307/11 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Cllrs Goff and Baker had visited the NASS event at the Bath and West and gave a report on the festival organisation, etc. There was a general agreement that the event seemed to be well organised although it was estimated that attendance was only about 50% of capacity. It was noted that previously the police had organised a meeting before the event to deal with concerns, it was hoped that they could be persuaded to hold a meeting before the 2024 event.

2307/12 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £379.33 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £72.20 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) ICO Data protection fee £40.00. this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) An invoice for preservative for the Glebeland tables from Mary Newman in the sum of £26.46 was agreed and a cheque raised.

2307/13 - Matters of Report

- i) Cllr Crewe raised the matter of a Parish Council Facebook page. To be discussed at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

2307/14 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

12th September 2023

**Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
17th July 2023
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